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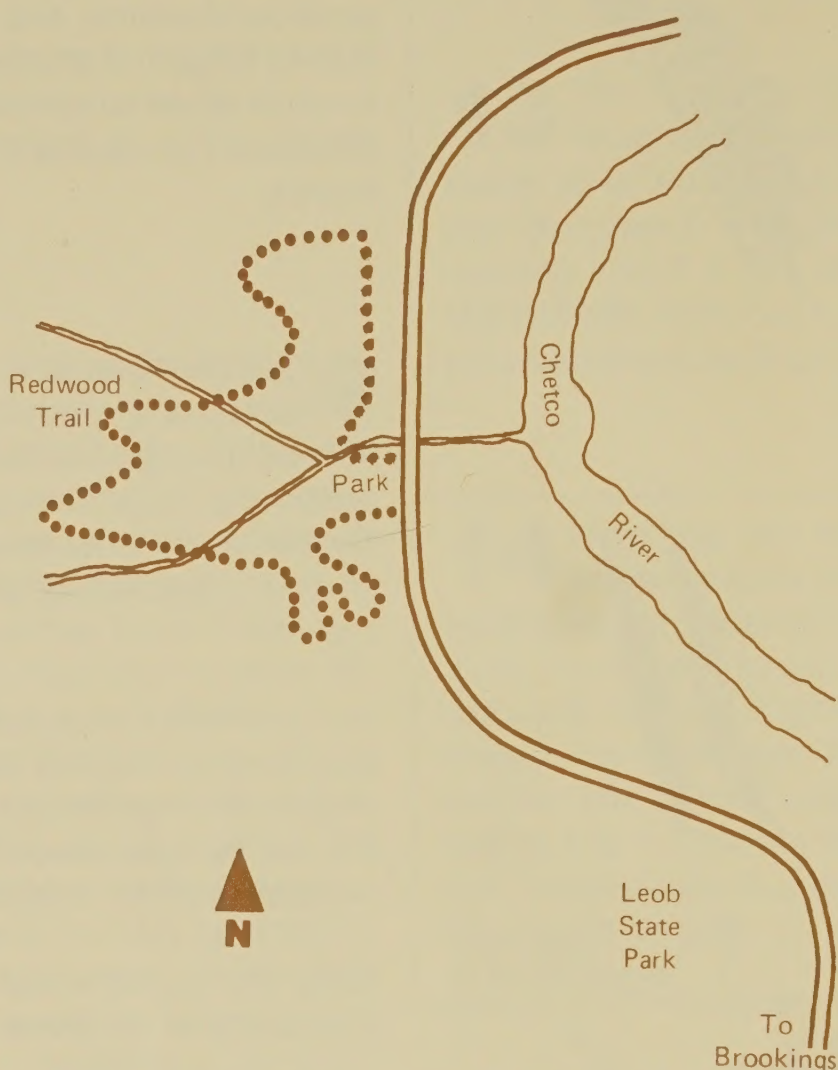


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the Redwood ature Trail



Siskiyou National Forest
Pacific Northwest Region
Forest Service · USDA



Welcome to the Redwood Nature Trail. You are invited to take a one-hour hike and view a sample of a redwood grove. The Redwood Nature Trail is located one-half mile north of the Alfred A. Loeb State Park, on the north bank of the Chetco River, near Brookings, Oregon. The trail is one mile long and is moderately difficult to hike as some sections are steep. Adults and children should have no trouble hiking the trail within an hour. Good footwear is recommended for your own personal comfort and safety. There are benches along the trail to rest. Those having difficulty in walking may wish to wait at the parking lot, enjoying the peace and quiet there.

Along the trail are numbered posts that correspond to the numbered sections in this brochure. These will introduce you to the redwood environs. We hope that you enjoy your visit here and want to learn more about your National Forests. This and other information is available at any U.S. Forest Service office.

Sincerely,

District Ranger
Chetco Ranger District
555 Fifth Street
Brookings, Oregon 97415
(503) 469-2196

1 The young trees all around you are redwoods. Redwood grows taller than any other American tree. Heights of 350 feet and diameters of 20-25 feet are not uncommon. The large redwoods you will see further along the trail range between 300 and 800 years old. Redwoods that are over 2000 years of age have been found.

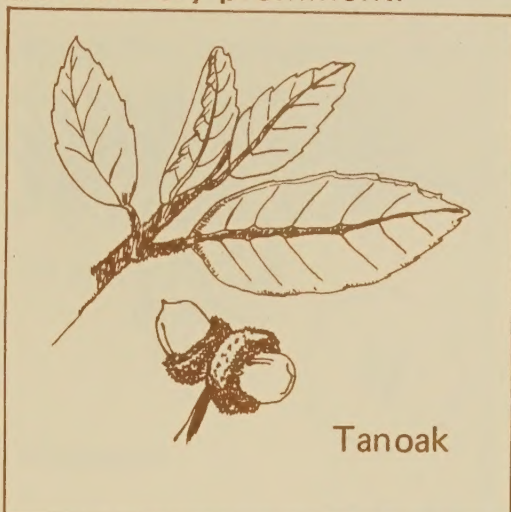


The needles on the lower branches of young trees stand out stiffly on opposite sides of the twigs. The needles on the upper branches of large trees are more scale-like. The cones of this giant tree are scarcely an inch long. Notice the small redwood stumps that are sprouting on the left-hand side of the trail. This sprouting helps to insure more redwood trees in the future. Keep your eyes open for more sprouting as you walk along the trail.

2 Tanoak is a broadleaf tree often growing with redwood. It is a common understory species in this part of Oregon, found in both redwood and Douglas-fir forests. Sometimes groves of almost pure tanoak occur.

The leaves are thick and leathery, with shallow creases like a washboard

road; the leaf margins have teeth or notches but they are not very prominent.



Tanoak—"tanbark oak"—was once used extensively by the leather industry on the Pacific Coast. Bark was peeled to extract tannin—necessary to tan the hides. Thus the tree got its name—tanoak. The tree is not a true oak, but is closely related.

Notice the large tanoak trees in the next section of the trail. They sometimes reach 2 to 3 feet in diameter where growing conditions are good.

3 Black Huckleberry is a black-fruited shrub which has evergreen leaves and is quite commonly found in coastal redwood stands. Another species also found in this forest, red Huckleberry, loses its leaves in the fall and has red fruit.

4 This is a Douglas-fir. Douglas-fir is the most common conifer in the Pacific Northwest. It is also the most common tree growing with redwoods. It can reach heights of 325 feet and diameters of 10-15 feet.

It is very important as a wood product for lumber and plywood.



Douglas-fir

Douglas-fir needles are soft, flattened, slightly pointed, and grow around the twig to give it a full, rounded appearance.

5 Rhododendron is a beautiful native shrub which often obtains tree height. Rhododendrons bloom in late spring and early summer. The masses of pink blooms scattered among the shaded giants of the forest produce a striking and beautiful effect.



Pacific Rhododendron

Of historical interest, the object behind the sign is an old log cage bear trap. It was constructed many years ago and was a commonly accepted method of trapping bears.

The top of the trap has rotted and caved in, but you

can still see its general outline.

The door was held up by a trigger that was baited. When the bear entered and began eating the bait the door would drop down behind him. The trap had to be made so that no light entered when the door was down so the bear would not try to get out and tear up the trap.

As you walk towards the next station notice the large redwoods. They prefer to grow on these moist sites.

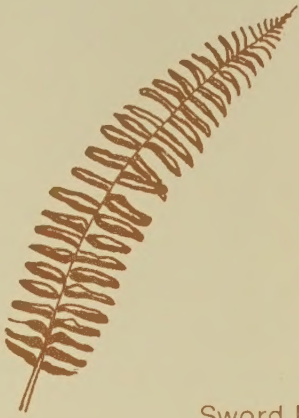
6 The clover-like plant covering the ground before you is Oxalis or redwood sorrel; when in bloom, it sports a small, delicate pink flower.



Wood Sorrel

It is found in moist sites associated with redwood and Douglas-fir along the coast.

7 There are four species of ferns visible here. Using the drawings as guides, see if you can locate and identify them: sword fern, lady fern, deer fern, and maiden hair fern.



Sword Fern

8 The large redwood is 12 feet, 6 inches in diameter; 33 feet, 8 inches in circumference; and 286 feet in height. It contains enough wood to construct 8 standard two-bedroom homes.



Deer Fern

9 This tree was severely damaged by fire. The fire burned through the bark, creating a large hollow. This weakened the tree enough so that it eventually broke and fell.

You can find the age of this tree by counting the number of growth rings visible on the cut surface. About how old was it when it fell?



Lady Fern

Redwood is renowned for the ability of its wood to resist rot and decay. However, you can see signs of wood decay on the cut surfaces of this tree. The decay probably entered the wood through the fire scar, further weakening the tree and perhaps speeding its fall.



Maiden Hair Fern

10 Redwood bark is very dense and thick. It has no resin and so burns very slowly. These two factors combine to help insulate the redwood from damage caused by fires. Notice the fire-blackened bark on the trees in this area. Most were totally uninjured by the fires. However, repeated fires, or really severe heat, may burn through the bark and hollow the trees' interior. These trees will continue to live as

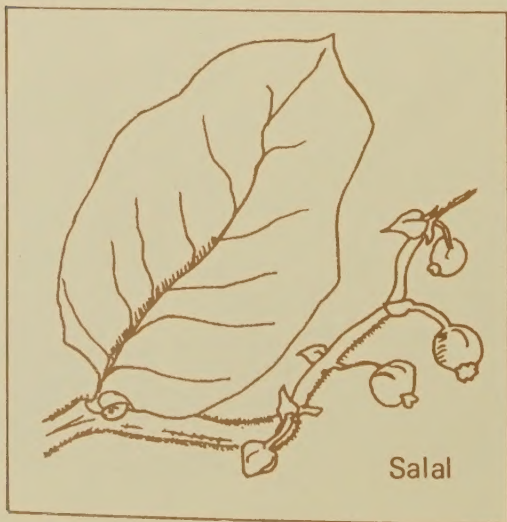
long as there is enough live wood to transport food and water for the tree.

These burned-out hollows earned the name “goose pens” from an early pioneer use.

11 Notice the large clump of redwood trees across the creek. This group, or “family” of trees, are actually sprouts from an old stump. Damage or injury—either from fire or mechanical source such as logging—can initiate sprouting from dormant buds under the bark of the tree. The sprouts utilize the root system of the parent tree and, for this reason, enjoy faster early growth than trees growing from seeds.

These “families” of redwoods are common all along the trail—watch for them. Notice also that many of the large trees you see began as sprouts from an old stump.

12 Salal is the most common understory cover in the Pacific North-

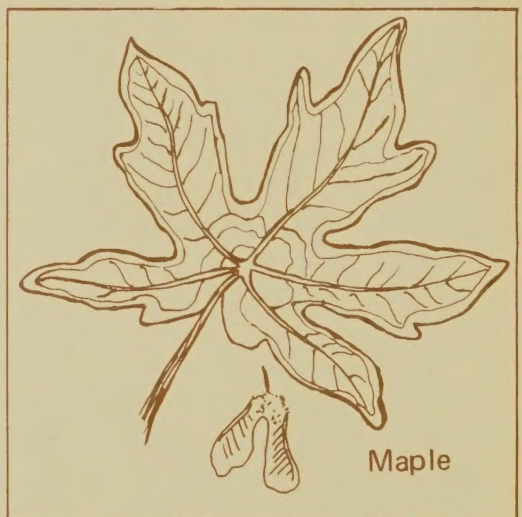


west and is associated with redwood. It is identified by evergreen leaves, small

pinkish flowers, and dark blue berries.

13 The clump of small trees before you is made up of young redwood and Douglas-fir. Can you identify each? If you are having trouble, look back in your brochure to Stop No. 1.

14 Here you can see three species of hardwood, or broadleaf, trees commonly found in redwood forests: bigleaf maple, red alder and Oregon myrtle. The bigleaf maple leaf is 6 to 12 inches wide and resembles a human hand with fingers outstretched.



Red alder outnumbers all other broadleaf species in Western Oregon. To identify red alder, look at its leaf. The edges are lightly rolled



under and they are notched,
or toothed.

Oregon myrtle is marked by
three characteristics: Olive-
shaped fruit, densely matted
foliage, and the odor of its
leaves. When bruised, myrtle
leaves give off a powerful
scent of camphor.



All three species thrive in
cool, moist sites like the
redwoods they are found
with.

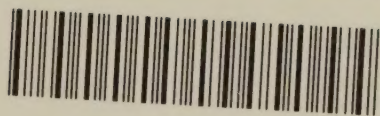
We hope your trip on the
Redwood Trail has been an
enjoyable one.

Keep this brochure if you
desire, or place it in the box
provided at the end of the
trail.

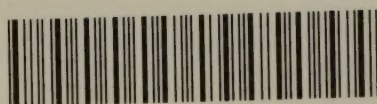
Thank you.

GIVE A HOOT!
**DON'T
POLLUTE**





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